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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
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HEADLINES

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Turkey to Send Humanitarian Aid to Tal Afar - Milliyet 9/11
Talabani: Turkey Supports a Federal Iraq - Milliyet 9/11
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OPINION MAKERS

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US: No Difference Between al-Qaida and the PKK - Zaman
Erdogan's Fifth Visit to the US - Cumhuriyet
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1,000 Residents Await Death in Tal Afar - Yeni Safak
'Referendum Operations' Kicked Off against Tal Afar - Zaman
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Iraqi Red Crescent Seeks Aid for Tal Afar Civilians -
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Talabani to VOA: We Do Not Support the PKK - Zaman 9/11
Talabani: Iraq Will not Recognize Israel - Radikal 9/11
9/11 Commemorated Around the World - Zaman
Al-Qaida Threatens to Attack US, Australia - Zaman
5 Troops Killed in Southeast Turkey - Radikal
US Troops Kill 30 Afghans - Yeni Safak 9/11
Israeli Troops Complete Gaza Pullout - Radikal

BRIEFING

US Embassy Commemorates Terror Victims on 9/11: On Sunday,
US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Nancy McEldowney laid a wreath
at a monument to martyrs in the Kecioren district of Ankara
in a ceremony to mark the fourth anniversary of the
terrorist attacks of September 11. McEldowney condemned the
PKK's network of terrorism, saying that there is 'no
difference between bin-Ladin and Abdullah Ocalan.' 'The
United States and Turkey will work to eliminate these
terrorists together,' McEldowney said. "Posta" reports that
US Consul General in Istanbul, Deborah Jones, laid wreaths
at each of the four sites of al-Qaida bombings in that city
in November 2003. In brief remarks to the press, Jones
stressed that terrorism constitutes a threat to free people
everywhere.

US Generals Meet Turkish Military: Saturday's "Sabah"
claims that during his meeting with the Commander of US
Forces in Europe, General James Jones, and US Central
Command Deputy Commander, Lieutenant General Lance Smith, in
Ankara last week, Turkish General Staff (TGS) Chief General
Hilmi Ozkok urged the US commanders to seek closer
cooperation with the Iraqi government in the fight against
the PKK. The US commanders were briefed on the rising
violence in southeast Turkey, the activities of the PKK in
northern Iraq, and financial support for the terror
organization coming from Europe. General Jones told the
press after the meeting that the US was carrying out a
'difficult struggle' in Iraq, and noted that the problem
with the PKK must be resolved by Turkey and the sovereign
government in Baghdad, 'with the United States providing as
much support as we possibly can.' Most reports suggest that
the United States remains cool to the idea of a
comprehensive military operation against the PKK in northern
Iraq. 'Jones declined to give a green light to military

operations against the PKK,' "Zaman" noted. All papers, however, printed significant excerpts of General Jones' statement to the press, in which he reassured the Turkish people that 'our common struggle against terrorism will be successful.'

Bryza Angers Greeks: At a panel discussion with Greek Americans in Washington, DAS Matt Bryza said that allowing US officials to travel to northern Cyprus directly from Turkey did not represent a change in US policy, Sunday's "Milliyet" reports from Washington. Bryza said that the Bush Administration has neither encouraged nor discouraged members of Congress from entering northern Cyprus through Ercan Airport, and he implied that the US regards such travel as a 'useful tactic.' Bryza also said the US is working to end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, who supported the Annan Plan in last year's referendum. Responding to questions from angry Greek Americans, Bryza said that the US is pursuing a policy aimed at achieving a lasting settlement on the island. 'Deciding whether the events of 1974 are best described as an occupation, an intervention, or an invasion is not really our problem,' he said, adding that 'our policy is to do everything possible to reach a joint settlement on Cyprus.'

US Gives Turkey 'Second-Class' Treatment: The US is treating Turkey as a 'second-class country' because Turkey has declined to meet US expectations in Iraq, Saturday's "Cumhuriyet" asserts. The report notes that Washington has not yet appointed an ambassador to Turkey, that US CENTCOM Commander General Abizaid failed to visit Ankara last week as expected, and that the US State Department sent DAS Matt Bryza to Ankara for talks with the Turkish Foreign Minister. Diplomatic sources speculated that by acting in this way, the US may be expressing its displeasure with Turkey's reluctance to train Iraqi troops in the absence of a NATO decision. The sources added that the US may also be reacting negatively toward Ankara because the Turks have not approved a state visit by Iraqi President Talabani, "Cumhuriyet" reports.

Erdogan to Travel to US: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan will fly to New York to participate in the UN summit on Monday, papers report. Erdogan will attend a lunch in his honor by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), will do a one-on-one with Charlie Rose on PBS, and meet with representatives of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and B'nai Brith. Erdogan will later join a UN reception, which will also be attended by President and Mrs. Bush. On September 14, Erdogan will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Sharon and Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero before calling on UN Secretary General Annan to discuss the 'Alliance of Civilizations' project. Erdogan will also address the UN General Assembly, and join a panel discussion on 'how civilizations communicate with one another' as part of a new global initiative being launched by former US President Bill Clinton.

Gul in New York: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul traveled to New York on Sunday to attend the UN summit and hold talks with political leaders, Monday papers report. At a press conference before his departure, Gul said he would discuss the PKK issue with Secretary Rice during a bilateral meeting later in the week. Gul will attend the UN World Summit and the 60th general assembly meetings of the UN before returning home on September 24.

US Blocks Access to Tal Afar: Monday's "Yeni Safak" claims that US bombing of Tal Afar has destroyed many buildings and left many people dead. Mehmet Tahir, an Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) official, claimed that the US is not allowing the ITF to enter Tal Afar in order to help evacuate women, elders, and children. Weekend reports say that the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) will send humanitarian aid to Tal Afar, along with Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) technical delegations, in an effort to help with health and infrastructure problems. Today's "Vatan" claims that US forces carrying out the operations in Tal Afar are showing their sensitivity to Turkey's concerns about the Turkmen population there. The story asserts that Kurdish peshmerge are not being used in the operations, and that US forces have enlisted the support of 1,000 Turkmen policemen in Tal Afar.

Baydemir Presents EU with a Report on Southeast Turkey: Saturday's "Milliyet" claims that members of the European Parliament asked Osman Baydemir, the mayor of Diyarbakir, about the possibility of a 'federal' settlement to the Kurdish issue and steps that could be taken in support of imprisoned PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan. Diplomatic sources point to the fact that Baydemir was invited by the EU to Brussels and Strasbourg on the eve of October 3, the date set for opening EU accession talks with Turkey, in an effort to discuss all controversial issues before Turkey enters into membership negotiations with the European bloc. In a report he drafted, Baydemir accused the Turkish state of

meddling in economic life in the southeast, adding that the Kurds were prevented from using their culture and language, and that they had been estranged from politics. The report said that provisions that ignore cultural and political differences should be scrapped from the constitution, and that the Kurdish language should be added to school curriculum. EU officials told Baydemir that violence will bring no results, and expressed concern about rising tension and street protests. Baydemir rejected press reports that he had called on both the PKK and the Turkish military to lay down their arms. The Turkish Interior Ministry has sent an inspector to Diyarbakir to examine the report, "Milliyet" claims.

Turkey's New Anti-Terror Bill: Monday's "Yeni Safak" says in a commentary on its front page that the latest draft of Turkey's new anti-terror bill contains 'vague' definitions under which everyone could be accused of supporting terrorist activities. The bill will cause 'chaos' in the judicial system because it contradicts many democratic amendments included in the new Turkish penal code, according to the report.

Survey: Government the Most Reliable Institution in Turkey: A survey by "Eurobarometer" shows that the government is the most trusted institution in Turkey, with 76 percent popular support, Saturday papers report. EU Commission Representative Ambassador Hansjorg Kretschmer welcomed the results of the survey, saying that an elected government should be the institution most relied on in democratic countries. "Cumhuriyet" downplayed the results, noting that the Turkish military had not been included among the institutions in the survey. The survey also showed that the proportion of Turks who describe themselves as 'rightist' increased from 38 percent in 2004 to 42 percent in the most recent poll.

Turkish Businessman Freed in Iraq: A Turkish businessman kidnapped in Iraq was freed after his family paid a 200,000 USD ransom, Monday papers report. Jeweler Enver Unvar said after returning home that he had been abducted by 'armed Iraqi mujahidin' in Baghdad 40 days ago. 'My family paid them 200,000 USD. If the ransom money had not been paid, I would have been beheaded,' Unvar said. He added that his friend, Feyaz Alisan, is still being held by the mujahidin.

PKK Re-launches Attacks: On Sunday, the PKK ended a unilateral cease-fire with an attack against a jandarma checkpoint in the eastern province of Bingol, during which one soldier was killed and two others were wounded. One military officer and four soldiers were killed in another confrontation with PKK militants in the rural areas of the southeastern province of Sirnak. The PKK had earlier announced that it would halt attacks until September 20. Meanwhile, police arrested 44 protesters at a demonstration in support of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan in the southeastern city of Sanliurfa.

IRNA Launches Turkish Website: Iran's official news agency IRNA has launched a website in Turkish in an effort to inform the 'brother and friendly' country Turkey about events in Iran, papers report on Monday.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Anniversary of 9/11; Iraq/PKK

"The US Experience on Anti-Terror"
Washington-based reporter Ali Aslan wrote in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (9/12): "The 4th anniversary of 9/11 coincided with debates in Turkey about the need for a new anti-terror law in order to deal with recent, growing terrorist incidents. It is always the case that countries, including the US, think about new measures and limiting freedoms in the aftermath of shocking terrorist acts. The US today has a new terrorism law and has started implementation. However, the American example looks very innocent when it is compared to the Turkish draft. . Despite some mistakes along the way, the US is still the primary example for the successful implementation of the supremacy of law in the world. Therefore, even a minor limitation in the rights and freedoms receives enormous public attention. The US also bears a responsibility, as being a champion of freedom, to the entire world. This is especially needed when authoritarian approaches in the world try to take the US as a reference for their pressure tactics on rights and freedoms in the context of the fight against terror."

"Some Try to Divide Turkey"
Nejat Eslen, a retired general, argued in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal": "The written statement of the Turkish General Staff and the statement of the US EUCOM General Jones did not overlap. Since the strategic problems of Turkey and the US are different from each other, such developments should be considered natural. General Jones' statement makes sense if you read it together with the statements of the US Adana Consulate officials in Diyarbakir

and Batman saying that they approve PM Erdogan's approach to Kurdish issue. . It is hard to understand for those who strongly believe in Turkey's unity that the PKK has become a strategic tool in the hands of the US that can be used to destabilize Iran and to isolate Turkey. Therefore, the US will never take concrete action against the PKK. Maybe the US wants everyone to know that during the Iraqi war the Kurds gave huge support to the US and the US protected them. Israel is happy with these developments as well. Therefore, the US will never do anything to hurt Iraqi Kurds and believes that the Iraqi Kurds will need a protector soon, from their own region."

MCELDOWNEY